



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Anderson Police Arrests Williamston Man on 2 Counts of Distributing Child Pornography

Columbia - Attorney General Alan Wilson announced today that Richard Pierce Chastain, 21, of 515 Irby Rd, in Williamston, SC was arrested on April 12, 2011 by the City of Anderson Police Department with assistance from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.

Both the Anderson City Police Department and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office are members of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Task Force investigators have received training on the use of special software to conduct undercover investigations related to the sharing of child pornography on peer-to-peer (file sharing) networks.

Chastain is charged with two (2) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (§16-15-405), 2nd Degree, a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege Chastain enabled digital photographs of children engaged in graphic sexual activities to be disseminated over the Internet via peer-to-peer (file sharing) networks. Chastain's computers, Xbox and several thumb drives were seized for forensic examination.

Chastain was assigned a \$50,000 bond with conditions that include no access to the internet. A booking photo is available through the Anderson County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Wilson stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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